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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia/USSR

DATE DISTR. 1 August 1950

SUBJECT Soviet Request for Purchases by Satellites
of Strategic Materials

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. At a meeting held in Prague in the middle of July 1950 in the presence of the foreign ministers of the satellite countries, Vishinsky asked for co-operation in purchasing strategic materials especially non-ferrous metals for the USSR. An organization to handle such purchases is to be set up in Prague, and one of the largest offices, to be located in Basel, will be registered as a Swiss commercial corporation with the help of the Société de Banque suisse, Basel. An unidentified Polish delegate has been negotiating there since approximately 15 July.
2. The Russians want to pool the gold reserves of the satellite governments for purchases to be made in France, Italy, Belgium and their colonies, and Turkey. The Czechs have so far resisted such gold pooling but are under strong pressure to cooperate.
3. The crops in the Balkan countries are being gathered in great haste, the work going on even at night. Twenty-two thousand Soviet soldiers entered Bulgaria in July, supposedly to help with the crops.
4. Marshal Voroshilov is on an inspection tour of the Balkan satellite armies.

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Next Review Date: 2008

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